

Sandbach
Urban



District
Council

Report

on the

Health and Sanitary Circumstances
of the District

for the year ended

31st December, 1964

Medical Officer of Health

L. RICH, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

9 PARK STREET, CONGLETON. Telephone 3655/6

Chief Public Health Inspector

N. A. ROGERS, M.A.P.H.I.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Sandbach Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1964 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District of Sandbach.

There has been an increase in the estimated population of 90 with 23 more deaths and 12 more births. Some of this increase is accounted for by the fact that 110 dwellings were completed.

The only infectious diseases notified were 55 cases of Measles and it is to be hoped that the Measles vaccine will soon be generally available so that this disease too may become a thing of the past. As has been pointed out repeatedly in previous Annual Reports it is vital that parents get their children adequately immunised against all those diseases where we are fortunate in having a satisfactory vaccine, namely Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis, Smallpox and Tuberculosis. They can go to their Family Doctors, or attend at the monthly Immunisation Clinic held on the first Wednesday afternoon of every month at Ashfields Clinic Centre, Platt Avenue. Nobody can plead that it is difficult to get these things done. All that is lacking in many instances is a sense of responsibility on the part of parents.

Once more reference is made to that section of the Chief Health Inspector's report dealing with milk sampling and presence of Brucella Abortus organisms.

Despite representations by the Council to the Urban District Councils' Association and from that body to the Ministry no progress has been made towards the introduction of a Slaughter Policy and the establishment of Brucella-free herds. It would appear to me that there is a fatal weakness at the highest level of administration that the Ministry of Agriculture should be allowed to purvey a diseased product and that the Ministry of Health either will not or cannot intervene. This lack of liaison between the two Ministries was well illustrated in the enquiry into the Aberdeen Typhoid epidemic. One would think that at the slightest suggestion of a

diseased product or potentially diseased product being offered to the public the Ministry of Health would intervene. But it would appear that the fear of economic loss has been allowed to overrule proper health safeguards.

I would also like to draw attention to the statement in the Health Inspector's section of the report dealing with Rehousing. The Council's record in dealing with the problems of overcrowding has been excellent. It is time now that more attention be paid to rehousing families living in substandard accommodation. Many of the 102 applicants on the Bungalow waiting list are from such houses. It would appear therefore that Bungalows and Flatlets must be an integral part of the new building required if a Slum Clearance programme is undertaken.

At the time of the writing of this Report the joint scheme between the County Welfare Department and the Housing Authority at Lightley Close has come into operation. A good deal of work was done in the selection of tenants for the Flatlets, this side of the scheme being the responsibility of the Urban District. Initial teething troubles were surprisingly few and of a minor character and first impressions are that in principle this is a very sound scheme. Close co-operation exists between our Health Staff and the County Staff and we work together as a team.

The canteen facilities made available to the Flatlet residents whereby they obtain a main mid-day meal is one of the best aspects of the scheme. A sense of community and family is being built up and the residents occupying the Part III accommodation don't feel segregated.

Once again I wish to thank the Clerk, Mr. Skeath, for his assistance and guidance which I value highly. Also to Mr. N. A. Rogers, the Chief Public Health Inspector, and to Mr. H. J. Rees, the Engineer and Surveyor, I wish to tender my thanks for the assistance they have given in the preparation of this report.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

L. RICH,

Medical Officer of Health

The figures in brackets are for the year 1963
to enable comparisons to be made

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Estimated Population 10,350 (10,260)

Births

Live Births—

		<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	... 178	(164)	101 (86)	77 (78)
Illegitimate	... 7	(9)	3 (5)	4 (4)

Still Births—

Legitimate	... 5	(5)	2 (4)	3 (1)
Illegitimate	... —	(—)	— (—)	— (—)

Live birth rate per 1000 estimated average population mid-1964 18.9 (17.8)

Live birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 of the population 18.4 (18.2)

Still birth rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 26.3 (28.0)

Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 total (live and still) births 16.3 (17.3)

Still birth rate per 1000 total population48 (.48)

Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 total population3 (.31)

Infantile Mortality

The total number of deaths is shown as follows :

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	... 9 (3)	5 (2)	4 (1)
Illegitimate	... — (—)	— (—)	— (—)

Infantile mortality rate per 1000 live births ... 48.6 (17.3)

Infantile mortality rate for England & Wales 20.0 (20.8)

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births 50.5 (18.2)

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births 0 (0)

Deaths

Deaths (all ages) ... 139 (116) 77 (70) 62 (46)

Death rate per 1000 estimated average population 14.6 (12.3)

Death rate for England and Wales per 1000 of population 11.3 (12.2)

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the year.

CAUSE							Total	Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other forms of	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infection	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	13	8	5
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	20	10	10
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	35	20	15
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	11	3	8
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	6	4	2
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	7	6	1
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	6	4	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	18	9	9
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
TOTAL							139	77	62

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes :

Puerperal Sepsis ... 0 (0)

Other Maternal causes ... 0 (0)

Maternity mortality rate per 1000 live and still births 0 (0)

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH FOR THE AREA

Care of Mothers and Young Children

Health Visitors :

Mrs. E. O. Rae
Ashfields Clinic, Platt Avenue, Sandbach
Telephone : Sandbach 970

Mrs. H. Henderson
Ashfields Clinic, Platt Avenue, Sandbach
Telephone : Sandbach 970

As can be seen from the figures of attendance a high degree of activity still continues at the Infant Welfare Clinic. The Preparation Classes continue to be very active and provide a very valuable start in Health Education for expectant mothers, the majority of whom then continue to attend at the Infant Welfare Sessions later.

We are grateful indeed to the Voluntary Workers for their help and assistance at these Clinics. Since Mrs. Collins retired Mrs. E. Beard has become the Secretary and she is ably assisted by Mrs. Skeath and many other good ladies.

Statistics

	New cases			Total Attendances			No. of Clinics held	Cases seen by Doctor	Average per Clinic seen by Doctor
	0-1	1-2	2-5	0-1	1-2	2-5			
Sandbach	191	—	—	2663	730	502	102	536	10.5
Welfare Centre	(183)	(—)	(—)	(2596)	(558)	(532)	(104)	(614)	(11.8)

Special Clinics for under 5

	New Cases			Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per clinic
Ophthalmic Clinic	26	131	32	4.0		
	(21)	(150)	(36)	(4.1)		
E.N.T. Clinic	5	10	10	1.0		
	(16)	(19)	(11)	(1.7)		

Special Clinics for School Children

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per clinic
Ophthalmic Clinic	49 (74)	468 (775)	32 (36)	14.6 (21.5)
E.N.T. Clinic	43 (72)	84 (149)	10 (11)	8.4 (13.5)

Preparation Class

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per clinic
Preparation Class	81 (87)	720 (710)	50 (50)	14.4 (14.2)

Welfare Foods Sold — 1964

Distribution Centre	National Full Cream	Dried Milk Half Cream	A. & D. Tablets	Cod Liver Oil	Orange Juice
Welfare Centre, Sandbach ...	610 (437)	4 (—)	101 (—)	106 (122)	1176 (1091)
Council Offices, Sandbach ...	856 (1117)	56 (39)	258 (295)	35 (54)	742 (648)

Midwifery and Home Nursing

Midwifery and home nursing in the town is carried out by the following nurses :

Beatty, M. <i>(full time)</i>	5 Coronation Crescent, Sandbach	Sandbach 731
Hoyle, I. (Mrs.) <i>(in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)</i>	9 Offley Avenue, Sandbach	Sandbach 852
Curzon, A. P. <i>(in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)</i>	647 Crewe Road, Wheelock	Sandbach 281
Wainwright, M. (Mrs.) <i>(in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)</i>	87 Platt Avenue, Sandbach	Sandbach 256

It is satisfactory to record that the work of our Home Nurses and Midwives has gone on at the same high standard and without a single complaint.

Once again numerous items of equipment have been loaned out in order to assist with the nursing of cases in their own homes.

These items consist of the following :

Wheel Chairs	Commodore	Rubber Sheets
Air Rings	Urine Bottles	Air Beds
Bed Pans	Lift	Back Rests
Crutches	Bed Cages	Special Bed
Page Turner	Walking Aid	Enuresis Blankets

We are constantly enlarging and improving our equipment and we are open to receive suggestions in all cases where special items of equipment are needed.

Births

Hospital		Home		Private Nursing Home	
Live	Still	Live	Still	Live	Still
148 (149)	5 (1)	54 (62)	— (3)	— (—)	— (—)

Meals on Wheels

This service has continued to flourish and with the establishment of the scheme at Lightley Close it is possible now to make available these meals to other people who have been on the waiting list. We are grateful once again to all those members of the W.V.S. who year after year give their services so willingly and also to Messrs. Fodens Limited who, since the inception of the scheme, have been providing us with the meals. As a matter of interest meals in the County of Cheshire provided by the Meals on Wheels Service are charged for at a standard rate of 1/- per meal, the difference in cost being made up jointly by the County Welfare and the Local Council.

Club for Physically Handicapped Persons

Good progress has been made in both the social and the handicraft side for physically handicapped persons. We are fortunate in having the services of a trained Occupational Therapist in the person of Mrs. Holt who is ably assisted from time to time on a voluntary basis by Mrs. Bratt. The W.V.S. play a valuable part in organising the social side and assisting in the handicraft side. It is anticipated that much more will be done for these people when we have permanent accommodation in the new Civil Defence building to be erected on the site adjacent to the Ashfields Clinic.

Vaccination and Immunisation

Statistics

Diphtheria Immunisation

Pre-school children	—	(—)
School children	—	(—)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	—	(—)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Reinforcing injections	2	(—)

Tetanus Immunisation

Pre-school children	—	(1)
School children	11	(2)
Adults	8	(—)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	19	(3)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Reinforcing injections	3	(13)

Whooping Cough

Pre-school children	—	(—)
School children	—	(—)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	—	(—)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Reinforcing injections	1	(—)

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus)

Pre-school children	227	(186)
School children	11	(11)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	238	(197)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Reinforcing injections	56	(41)

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough)

Pre-school children	—	(—)
School children	—	(—)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	—	(—)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Reinforcing injections	—	(—)

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria, Tetanus)

Pre-school children	2	(2)
School children	1	(4)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3	(6)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Reinforcing injections	78	(71)

Primary Vaccination

Pre-school children	91	(59)
School children	7	(7)
Adults	10	(19)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	108	(85)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Re-Vaccination	16	(25)

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

The figures given below relate to the work done in South East Cheshire during the year under review. It is not possible to separate out these figures for Sandbach. However, it is interesting to know that since immunisation first started in 1957, more than 50,000 persons have received either injections or drops by mouth, or in many cases both. This makes an immunisation rate of over 70% for Poliomyelitis in South East Cheshire.

				ORAL VACCINE			Reinforc. dose
				1st dose	2nd dose	3rd dose	after salk vacc.
Children born in 1964	133	133	133	}	157		
Children born in 1963	625	625	625				
Children born in 1962	100	100	100				
Children born in 1961	51	51	51				
Children and Young Persons born 1943-60	164	164	164				
Persons born 1933-42	46	46	46				
Others	134	134	134				
TOTALS	1253	1253	1253				157

Public Health Laboratory Service

We have continued to use the new Laboratory at Chester and I should like to pay tribute to the services given and the help and advice we receive from the Pathologist in charge.

Domestic Help Service

Statistics relating to the Home Help Services provided in Sandbach during 1964 are as follows :

Home Helps employed during 1964

Full time	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Part time	...	...	...	...	...	29	(27)
						<hr/> 29	<hr/> (27)

Home Helps employed at 31st December, 1964

Full time	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Part time	...	...	...	...	...	18	(16)
						<hr/> 18	<hr/> (16)

Applications received during 1964

Confinement	...	...	...	...	...	4	(5)
Sickness	...	...	...	...	...	4	(1)
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	...	...	12	(7)
						<hr/> 20	<hr/> (13)

Cases attended during 1964

Confinement	...	...	...	...	...	7	(1)
Sickness	...	...	...	...	...	14	(13)
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	...	...	24	(16)
						<hr/> 45	<hr/> (30)

Cases receiving attention at 31st December, 1964

Confinement	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Sickness	...	...	...	...	...	11	
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	—
Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	...	...	17	
						<hr/> 29	

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

This district is supplied with River Dee water from the Hurleston Treatment Works which is of moderate hardness.

The Contract for the construction of the 21 inch trunk main from Sandbach to the new 3 m.g. service reservoir at Smallwood was commenced in November 1964 and programmed to be completed in 1965.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

No major works were carried out during 1964, but further work was carried out on the preparation of a large scheme for the Middlewich Road - Park Lane area which, apart from the alleviation of the present sewerage and surface water difficulties in this locality, would provide sewerage facilities for considerable development in the future.

Housing

During 1964 considerable progress was made on the construction of a combined scheme for 25 elderly persons' flats with Part III accommodation, comprising a 12 bed home at Lightley Close. It is anticipated that the building will be ready for occupation in May 1965.

During 1964, 110 dwellings were completed by private enterprise.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following table gives the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year :

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1964

DISEASE	AGE DISTRIBUTION												Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital
	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over		
Meales	5	4	9	7	5	24	1	—	—	—	—	—	55	—

Tuberculosis

For comparative purposes, I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1964 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1955.

Notifications — 1955 to 1964

	1955		1956		1957		1958		1959		1960		1961		1962		1963		1964	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14													1							
15-24	1		1																	
25-34							1		1								1			
35-44					2									1						
45-54																				
55-64			1		1															
65 and over																				
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14									1											
15-24						1														
25-34			1		1		1						1	1						
35-44					1															
45-54																				
55-64																			1	
65 and over			1																	
TOTALS	1	—	4	—	5	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	1	—	1	—

Deaths — 1955 to 1964

	1955		1956		1957		1958		1959		1960		1961		1962		1963		1964	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14																				
15-24																				
25-34																				
35-44																				
45-54			1																	
55-64							1													
65 and over														1					1	
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14																				
15-24																				
25-34																				
35-44																				
45-54																				
55-64																				
65 and over																				
TOTALS	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—

Cases on Register at 31st December, 1964

					Up to 1 yr.	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 & over	Total
Male Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	5	—	—	11
Female Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	—	—	2	7
Male Non-Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	1	—	—	5
Female Non-Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	1	—	—	5

The following sections of this report have been compiled by the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. N. A. Rogers.

Public Health Inspection

Number of Inspections and Visits during 1964	3826
Number of Informal Notices served during 1964	74
Number of Informal Notices complied with during 1964	73
Number of Informal Notices outstanding at 31/12/64	2
Number of Statutory Notices served during 1964 ...	—
Number of Statutory Notices complied with during 1964	—
Number of Statutory Notices outstanding at 31/12/64	—

Complaints received in the Health Department have increased considerably over the past year. A few years ago representations of this nature from the public were mainly in respect of disrepair of rented houses, but, whereas this type of complaint has become comparatively rare, the emphasis is now on a wider aspect of environmental conditions, such as noise and smells. Assessment of such nuisances is not an easy matter, for the tolerance of individuals varies considerably. Unfortunately, too, complaints on these matters are by no means limited to normal working hours.

It was not found necessary to resort to Court Proceedings in any instances during 1964.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection

In the early months of the year the position in regard to Refuse Collection became extremely difficult, mainly due to the adverse labour situation. Fortunately, the Council were persuaded to purchase a new 50 cu. yd. compression-type collection vehicle and from the time of its delivery a distinct improvement in the service was apparent. Towards the end of the year the one new vehicle was doing the work on which two vehicles had previously been engaged and the collection had settled down to a fairly steady 8-day cycle. It was felt that the introduction of an Incentive Bonus Scheme for the workmen concerned might result in a 7-day collection, and at the end of the year the Council's suggestions on this point were being considered by the employees and their Trade Union.

Refuse Disposal

All collected refuse is disposed of at the Council's Tip at Malkins Bank.

Here again a distinct advance was made in 1964. The Council purchased an earthmoving machine in March and within a comparatively short time the condition of the Refuse Tip was improved almost out of recognition. Covering material has been obtained from building sites and other places and the principles of "Controlled Tipping" are now practised. It appears also that the life of the tip will be extended as a result of the use of mechanical equipment.

In view of the increased tendency for unwanted goods to be dumped surreptitiously in places where they create a nuisance or an eyesore, the Council Tip is now left unlocked and available to such persons. It is felt that the extra attention required at the Tip as a result of this action is outweighed by the amount of trouble avoided elsewhere.

Supply of Dustbins

The Council does not operate a Dustbin Scheme under Section 75(3) of the Public Health Act, 1936, but a supply of dustbins is kept for sale on request. 130 properties were supplied in this way.

Salvage

The only commodity now being salvaged is cardboard cartons which are sold to a local engineering firm for packaging materials. 2,527 boxes were thus disposed of for the sum of £31/11/9d. This amount is less than that of previous years and it is probably due to the fact that any cartons thrown into the new refuse vehicle are immediately crushed by the compressor and made useless.

Conservancy

The scheme whereby arrangements were made with Congleton Rural District Council for the emptying of pail closets in this area has continued throughout the year and has worked very satisfactorily. Eleven houses are thus served and three pails from other types of premises are also emptied.

Public Conveniences

It is not possible to report any improvement with regard to the ill-use of the Public Conveniences. In February the conveniences in the town centre were redecorated but within 24 hours all the

doors had been defaced, especially so in the ladies' toilets. The doors were again painted but further defacement took place within a few days.

In the interests of hygiene the washing compartments were left unlocked for a trial period of three months, but it was necessary to report at the end of this time that the abuse of the facilities had nullified the intended effect and on many occasions it had been found that the equipment was not in a fit condition to be used by decent people. On the basis of this information the Council gave instructions for the money-locks to be re-instated.

HOUSING

Unfit Houses

(a) Individual Houses

Number of Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	—
Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	—
Number of houses demolished as a result of informal action	...	...	...	—
Number of unfit houses closed under Section 17(1) Housing Act 1957	...	...	...	—
Number of houses closed in pursuance of undertakings given by owners	...	...	...	—

(b) Clearance Areas

Number of Areas declared during the year	...	...	—
Number of Orders made during the year	...	...	—
Number of houses demolished	...	...	2
Number of families rehoused	...	...	2
Number of persons rehoused	...	...	4

It will be seen that very little action has been taken with regard to clearance or closing of unfit houses. Until land has been acquired and a further Council building programme is in being, action with regard to unfit houses is largely stifled.

Repairs

Number of unfit houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action	... ..	3
Number of unfit houses in which defects were remedied as a result of formal action :		
(a) by owners under Public Health Acts	... ..	—
(b) by Local Authority under Public Health Acts	...	—
(c) Under Housing Acts	... ..	1

Certificates of Disrepair

There was no action whatsoever during 1964 concerning Certificates of Disrepair.

Improvement Grants

During the year there were applications for Discretionary Grants in respect of four houses and Standard Grants were approved in respect of 20 houses. One application for Discretionary Grant was dis approved because of the insufficient anticipated life of the property concerned. Of all the Grants made, 17 were in respect of owner-occupied houses.

The total number of Improvement Grants approved since the Scheme began is 183.

Discretionary Grants — year 1964

Number of applications received	... ..	4
Number of applications approved	... ..	3
Total amount of Grants involved in above approvals		£439

Standard Grants — year 1964

Number of applications received	... ..	20
Number of applications approved	... ..	20
Total amount of maximum Grants involved	... ..	£2040

In one instance the improvements were carried out before the applicant had received the formal approval of the Council and in these circumstances the Council refused to pay the Grant.

No Improvement Areas have yet been established and no Improvement Notices have been served.

Rehousing

The following is a statement of the latest position with regard to the Register of Applicants for tenancies of Council houses and flats :

Applicants on Waiting List for less than 1 year	90
Applicants on Waiting List between 1 and 2 years ...	16
Applicants on Waiting List between 2 and 3 years ...	6
Applicants on Waiting List over 3 years	3
<hr/>	
Total number of 'live' applicants on current register	115
<hr/>	

Fourteen applicants from the Register were rehoused during 1964.

In addition, there were 102 applicants on the Bungalow waiting list, one case having been accommodated during the year.

It will be seen from the above figures that at the time of the report only 25 applicants had been on the general waiting list for more than 12 months and were thus eligible to be considered for a tenancy allocation. This appears to indicate a comparatively little problem so far as general housing needs are concerned and the Council may consider that it is time to place more emphasis on rehousing from unfit houses.

A joint scheme by the Urban Council and the County Council for the construction of flatlets linked with Part III accommodation was well in progress by the end of the year. The flatlets will house 19 single persons and 6 married couples, and these tenants will also be provided with various welfare facilities on a communal basis. The site of the project is excellent in so far that it is in the middle of an existing Council house estate.

Moveable Dwellings

At the beginning of the year the only licensed site operating within the Urban District was a communal site for 25 caravans. The number of occupied vans on the site has not exceeded 17 and the facilities provided are of a high standard. It became necessary during the year to require the licensee to improve the fire-fighting facilities and this matter was adequately dealt with.

Two new individual sites were licensed on a 12 monthly basis. In both instances the facilities were satisfactory and the caravans were required only to meet a short-term need.

In the latter part of the year a caravan with the minimum of sanitary facilities was parked on land of which the ownership could not be established. Informal action having had no effect, the Council decided at the end of the year to take statutory action under the Public Health Act.

FOOD

Slaughtering and Meat Inspection

The one licensed Slaughterhouse in the Urban District has been continued in use throughout the year. In general the business has been well conducted and the owner has been quite co-operative on any points raised.

Very little of the meat produced at this slaughterhouse went for consumption locally. Most of the beef was exported to the cities, in many instances for manufacturing purposes, and the nature of this meat is reflected in the high condemnation figures.

The Council have continued to impose the maximum fees for meat inspection and carcase stamping and this is not inappropriate in view of the fact that most of the inspection has to be carried out at weekends. The implementation of the authority to charge fees for inspection and stamping at first provoked some opposition in the trade, but the system has now settled down and it appears to have become an accepted part of the business.

Meat Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Animals slaughtered and Inspected	304	1091	48	3090	1157	5690
(There were no horses slaughtered in the Urban District during 1964)						

CONDEMNATIONS

All diseases except Tuberculosis:

Whole carcasses con- demned	5	107	10	7	3	132
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	69	767	1	230	28	1095
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	24%	80%	23%	8%	2%	22%

Tuberculosis only:

Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	1	—	—	20	21
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	0.09%	—	—	1.7%	0.37%

8 cases of localised *Cysticercus Bovis* were detected during the year

Analysis in lbs. of Condemned Meat

	<i>Beef</i>	<i>Veal</i>	<i>Mutton</i>	<i>Pork</i>
Tuberculosis	11	—	—	284
Parasites and Cysts ...	9424	—	350	7
Angioma	384	—	—	—
Dropsy	35411	34	—	38
Emaciation	—	—	264	—
Actinomycosis	25	—	—	—
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	165	3	—	76
Septicaemia	3984	201	—	112
Abscesses	1248	—	5	24
Fever	954	105	68	174
Immaturity	—	19	—	—
Pyæmia	—	38	—	—
Misc. and Injury ...	6185	—	42	100
	<hr/> 57791 <hr/>	<hr/> 400 <hr/>	<hr/> 729 <hr/>	<hr/> 815 <hr/>

It is interesting to observe the trend in the comparative amounts of beef condemned in the last four years :

Average amount condemned per Beast Slaughtered

	<i>All Diseases</i>	<i>Tuberculosis only</i>
1961 ...	18 lb	0.5 lb
1962 ...	19 lb	0.17 lb
1963 ...	33 lb	0.04 lb
1964 ...	41 lb	0.007 lb

Food Hygiene

Routine inspections of food premises were carried out throughout the year with a view to maintaining a good standard of hygiene. The co-operation of the occupiers was readily secured in most cases and it did not become necessary to take statutory action in any instance.

The number of Food Premises (in broad categories) in the Urban District is as follows :

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Clubs	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fried Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Grocers and General	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Public Houses, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
School Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Works Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

Unsound Food

The following unsound foods were condemned upon voluntary surrender :

119 tins Meat	...	...	...	...	...	456 lb
555 tins Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	750½ lb
131 tins Fish	...	...	...	...	...	56¼ lb
365 tins Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	283½ lb
83 tins Fruit Juice	...	...	...	...	...	103¾ lb
2 tins Soup	...	...	...	...	...	1½ lb
2 tins Creamed Rice	...	...	...	...	...	2 lb
1 tin Condensed Milk	...	...	...	...	...	1 lb
5 tins Evaporated Milk	...	...	...	...	...	4¾ lb
6 tins Jam	...	...	...	...	...	9¼ lb
12 tins Sponge Pudding	...	...	...	...	...	6 lb
53 packs Butter	...	...	...	...	...	26½ lb
2 packets Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	½ lb
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	20 lb
						<hr/> 1721½ lb <hr/>

There have not been any instances of the sale of unsound food.

Milk

Dealers' Licences are issued by the County Council. There are two dairy herds in this district from which milk is sold raw to the public.

The County Health Department have supplied the following statistics covering samples of raw milk taken to ascertain the presence of Brucella Abortus.

	Total Submitted	Number Brucella Positive
Bulk Samples	32	4
Dealer Samples	4	—
Individual Cow Samples	106	13
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	142	17
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The Council have on many occasions expressed their dissatisfaction at the inadequacy of the law and the absence of a national policy in relation to Brucellosis but there are not yet any official indications of an improvement in this respect.

Ice Cream

55 premises are registered by the Local Authority for the sale of Ice Cream. Only wrapped ice cream was sold from these premises and no ice cream is known to have been manufactured in the district during the year.

Other Registered Premises

16 premises are registered by the Local Authority under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, for the preparation of cooked meats, etc. and 9 premises are registered for fish frying.

MISCELLANEOUS

Rodent Control

A trained Rodent Operator, working under the supervision of the Public Health Inspectors, spends approximately half his time on these duties.

The following treatments were carried out during the year :

Business Premises	... ..	71
Agricultural Properties	... ..	36
Dwelling Houses	... ..	49
Local Authority Undertakings	... ..	3
		<hr/>
		159
		<hr/>

By means of annual contracts the Council deals with 18 commercial and 8 agricultural properties, and this system gives satisfactory results to all concerned.

The sewers throughout the district were tested and treated for rat infestation.

Offensive Trades

There is one business in the area - bone-boiling - which is classed as an Offensive Trade. The firm concerned has always been co-operative on any occasion when it has become necessary to make representations concerning the emission of smells.

Atmospheric Pollution

The Council have not yet taken any steps towards the establishment of Smoke Control Areas.

There have been few complaints of smoke nuisances during 1964 : it has never previously been possible to report to this effect.

Nuisances arising from the burning of waste in a scrap-yard and on a tip were both successfully dealt with by informal action.

Noise Abatement

Complaints of noise from an industrial works persisted for several months, and, as the plant was also emitting chemical smells, it became difficult to assuage the wrath of the complainants. The firm concerned was co-operative in taking steps with a view to eliminating the alleged nuisances and other measures are still in hand.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

This Act came into force during the year. Its provisions require proper standards and facilities at premises which, from the Public Health point of view, were previously inadequately provided for.

Most of the activity in this respect was confined to securing the registration of all the premises to which the Act applied, and a start was then made on a detailed survey.

No accidents were reported during the period in question.

Factories

The following table indicates the position for 1964 :

Particulars	No. on Register	No. of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	19	7	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ...	71	38	1	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	6	6	—	—
TOTAL	96	51	1	—

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